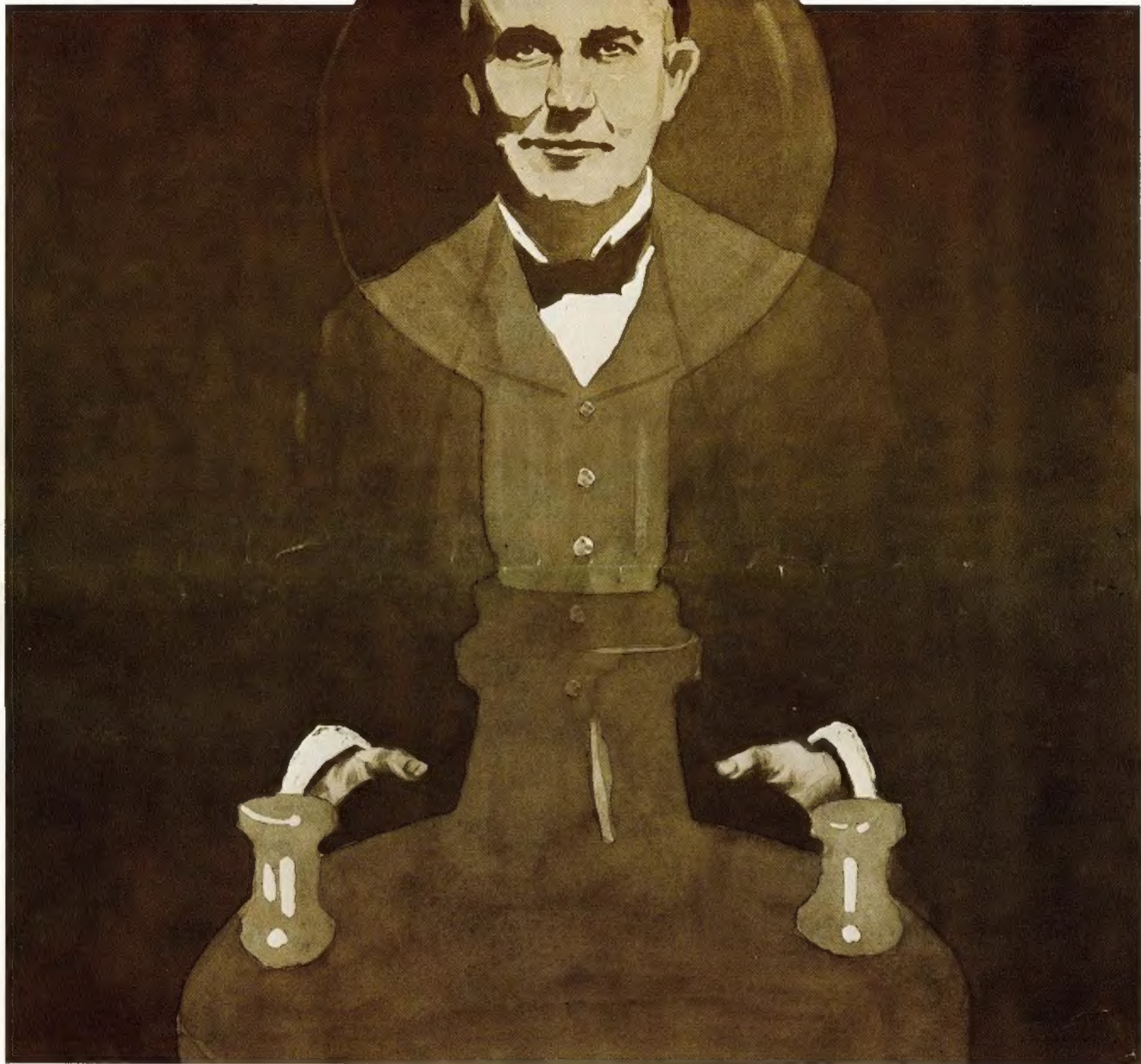


Plain Talks

Vol. 58, No. 6

Sept./Oct. 1979



Edison: father of an industry

As Thomas Alva Edison began working intensively on an incandescent lamp in the fall of 1878, after nearly a year of study and tentative experimentation, the streets of Paris were already aglow with arc lamps. The same glaring, smoky elec-

tric illumination even lighted John Wanamaker's department store in Philadelphia.

Arc lamps, however, were bulky and burned out easily. They were far too intense for home and office use. And they were costly. Ever marketing-oriented,

Edison saw great potential for a new electric lighting alternative without these disadvantages.

Despite the laboratory resources at Edison's unique Menlo Park "invention factory" in New Jersey, the experimental work was difficult. In one troublesome

report to his financial backers Edison wrote: "I speak without exaggeration . . . I have constructed 3,000 different theories . . . each of them reasonable . . . yet, in two cases only did my experiments prove the truth of my theory."

(Continued on page 11)

The Carter Energy Plan

Long range solutions to an immediate problem

If President Carter gets his way on energy, which is by no means certain, his most significant proposals may begin paying dividends in a decade or so. What is the United States supposed to do until then?

One of the most obvious flaws in the President's energy program is that the emphasis is on long-range solutions. There is not enough of a recognition that more energy is needed now. In addition, the Carter plan depends too much on government instead of the private sector to seek out solutions.

A number of the President's proposals would affect Gulf States Utilities Company and its customers — unfortunately, in an adverse way.

Superficially, the White House plan to create an Energy Mobilization Board that would speed up critical energy projects by cutting governmental red tape is an excellent idea. But the President wants this three-member board to be able to waive only federal, state and local procedural roadblocks to construction. The real obstacles, such as unrealistic clean air requirements, could not be altered.

Some members of Congress and energy experts realize that such a board would be worthless without the authority to overrule substantive law.

In his farewell address, then Energy Secretary James Schlesinger spoke out in behalf of a strong Energy Mobilization Board. " . . . Unless it has the teeth to get the job done (the board) will not accomplish miracles," Schlesinger said.

"Therefore it will have to be watched carefully to see that it is provided with the necessary tools. We have done some strange things in this country in recent years. With the growth of participatory democracy, we have given almost all groups the capacity to block a decision. Everyone has the right to say 'no.' No one essentially can say 'go ahead.' It is this massive accumulation of laws, procedures, rights, litigation and sheer sabotage that we are attempting to unblock."

There is little reason to create a board of this kind unless it is given the authority to waive all federal, state and local requirements that block siting and construction of priority energy projects.

Another Carter proposal would require utilities to cut back on their use of oil by 50 percent by 1990. Electric utilities such as GSU had begun reducing their consumption of oil before the President's latest program was unveiled. GSU, for example, has reduced the amount of oil burned to generate electricity about 50 percent since last year by stepping up its use of natural gas.

Natural gas supplies are only temporarily abundant, however, and if GSU and other utilities are to phase out oil there must be alternate fuels to take its place. The only viable alternatives at the present time are coal and nuclear power.

The Carter plan falls short because it does not couple the mandatory reduction in oil usage with actions which are necessary if utilities are to convert to other fuels. The President is emphasizing coal as the primary replacement for oil, but that fuel offers a host of headaches involving environmental restrictions, financing and transportation. Likewise, immense obstacles stand in the way of nuclear power development.

Utilities in the Northeast have come full circle. Twenty years ago the federal government forced them to convert many of their coal-fired generating plants to clean-burning oil for environmental reasons. Now they are having to make the costly transition back to coal.

The President is asking \$5 billion in direct grants and \$20 billion in loan guarantees be set aside over the next decade to help utilities phase out their use of oil. When divided among all the nation's utilities and spread out over 10 years, those aren't the enormous amounts of money they seem — especially when one nuclear plant, such as GSU's River Bend No. 1, can cost \$1.3 billion.

Moreover, there is growing uncertainty over whether Congress will appropriate sums that large. The Office of Management and Budget has questioned the size of the loan guarantee proposal and a Department of Energy spokesman has said both programs may have to be trimmed or eliminated.

The Carter administration also has a curious enforcement mechanism planned for this program — a kind of coupon rationing for utilities. Legislation is being offered that would set 1990 targets for each utility, based on half of its 1977 consumption. Tickets, or rights, to

(continued on page 11)

Plain Talks

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Bonnie Duvall — Sabine Station

Rose Reeves — Port Arthur

Nina Wiley — Conroe

D. W. Rutherford — Lewis Creek

Anna Raymond — Lake Charles Main Office

Edith Patterson — Lake Charles T&D

Conne Herford — Nelson Station

Mona Burris — Lafayette

Adelaide Bankston — Government Street

George Weathers — Choctaw

Shivaun Bourgoyne — North Boulevard

David Thornhill — Louisiana Station

Lydia Mitchell — Willow Glen

Ritchie Yott — Willow Glen

Bobby Hilborn — River Bend

Suzanne Taylor — Gas Department

INTRODUCING...

your employee correspondents

The word correspondent often conjures up visions of a hard-nosed, veteran newsman dodging bullets on some foreign battlefield, dedicated to his task of keeping the public abreast of ever-changing world affairs.

It is in this same spirit that *Plain Talks* announces a new program, involving employees in the gathering and writing of news and feature items to a greater extent than ever before.

The Employee Correspondent Program, although new in name is not new in concept. A large number of employees have served as volunteer reporters for their work areas in the past and have done an admirable job.



Doris Wallace, Orange District correspondent, combs the newspaper for examples of feature stories in the workshop segment on feature writing lead by Ray Funderburk, director — employee information.

The new network of some 20 correspondents is not intended as a replacement for the old reporter system. Rather the new program, with its different function, will serve as an extension of the old system.

Reporters and employees who have submitted items in the past are still encouraged to do so. This has not changed.

The small number of correspondents will enable the editor to be in touch with each of them on a regular basis. The large number of reporters made this practice difficult in the past. Located in each division, power plant and the company's two largest district offices, they will serve as the *Plain Talks* representatives in their areas. This will free the editor to do stories on employees not represented with correspondents in their immediate locations.



Ritchie Yott, Willow Glen Station correspondent, discussed interviewing techniques during the three-day training workshop in Baton Rouge.

The small size of the group will also make training possible for the correspondents. A three-day workshop designed to equip the correspondents with the basic news reporting, writing and photography skills was held in Baton Rouge Aug. 22-24. Conducted by Ray Funderburk, director of employee information and *Plain Talks* editor Gary Dias, the workshop consisted primarily of practical "learn by doing" exercises with a considerable amount of time being devoted to photography. Participants were issued inexpensive 35 millimeter cameras to use in performing their roles as correspondents.

With the help of these correspondents, *Plain Talks* will begin putting more emphasis on stories about employees whose achievements or activities would be of interest to other readers. If you know of something which might make a good story for *Plain Talks*, please contact the correspondent nearest you or send a note to *Plain Talks*, Beaumont.

The correspondents are listed on page two.

Co-ops buy into River Bend

Two electric cooperatives recently signed agreements under which they will begin acquiring a 37 percent interest in GSU's River Bend No. 1 nuclear plant.

Louisiana's thirteen-member Cajun Electric Cooperative signed an agreement with GSU August 28 allowing Cajun to begin acquiring a 30 percent interest in the 940 megawatt plant scheduled for completion in early 1984. This was followed by GSU's agreement with Texas-based Sam Rayburn Dam Electric Cooperative, through its affiliate Sam Rayburn G&T, Inc., under which the cooperative will begin acquiring a seven percent interest in the facility, GSU will continue as project manager of the nuclear unit.

Company's trading symbol changes

Beginning September 17, the company's trading symbol on the New York, Midwest and Pacific stock exchanges changed from GTU to GSU. These letters are used by stockholders and brokers as a shorthand to identify the company and get current stock information about the company.

By entering the letters on a computer keyboard in virtually any stockbroker's office, a description of the company's stock prices and activity flashes on a television screen. Gulf States had been traded on the New York exchange since 1947 under the symbol GTU because another company had the letters GSU.

GSU aids in power restoration

A 50-man contingent of GSU line repair employees was sent to help restore electric service to Mississippi Gulf Coast residents left powerless by Hurricane Frederic.

"Our customers have experienced hurricanes and know the helpless feeling of being without electricity for extended periods," said GSU president Norman Lee. "Had the situation been reversed, neighboring electric utilities would have assisted us. We are glad to be able to help our Mississippi friends."

Altogether, 16 crews and 20 vehicles were dispatched to Gulfport and Biloxi to assist Mississippi Power Company of Gulfport in the restoration of electric service.

Mississippi Power vice president H. H. Bell praised the GSU crews for their fine work, cooperation and concern during the eight days they were involved in the service restoration. "Gulf States crews are really making a name for themselves just as they did after Hurricane Camille," said Bell.

'Truth Squad' tails Fonda and Hayden

Dr. Linn Draper, GSU's nuclear spokesman and technical assistant to the chairman of the board, has spent the past several weeks challenging actress Jane Fonda and her husband Tom Hayden as they toured the nation trying to turn the public against nuclear power.

Draper joined with another nuclear expert Sandra Keifer, in comprising an "Energy Truth Squad" whose goal was to ensure a balanced presentation of nuclear energy to the public, to make the clear distinction between fact and fiction as Fonda and Hayden promoted their Campaign for Economic Democracy which, among other things, calls for a total ban on nuclear power.

Request filed for wholesale rate hike

Gulf States has filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for \$1.2 million increase in wholesale transmission service charges from various customers who use GSU transmission lines to transport electricity they generate to points of use. FERC must approve the increase before it becomes effective.

GSU supports TCIP winner

The GSU-sponsored Toledo Bend Community Club, representing the combined communities of Toledo Village-Tall Timbers-River Road, located near the Toledo Bend Reservoir in east Texas, was one of four regional winners in the statewide Texas Community Improvement Program (TCIP).

The Toledo Bend Community Club, winner of the Region 3 Award, undertook a number of projects for the competition — all designed to improve the standard of life in the community. One of the community's outstanding achievements was the building of a fire station and purchase of a fire engine. Art Darnsteadt, who headed the Toledo Bend group, explained that since the communities are not incorporated as municipalities, they have no tax base. "So we built the fire station and bought the truck on our own, with no state or federal funds," he said, adding that everyone in the area helped with various fund-raising projects.

Mills chosen SGA president

Sammy Mills, son of Lee Mills — dispatcher in the Orange Service Department — is currently serving as president of the student government association at Lamar University's Orange campus. Mills, a sophomore physical education student, is a 1977 graduate of Bridge City High.

Accident rate tops goal

At the end of September, the company's overall lost time accident rate was 2.4 lost time accidents per million manhours worked, bettering the corporate goal of 2.75 lost time accidents per million manhours. The vehicle accident rate did not fare as well, however, with 6.9 accidents per million miles driven compared to the corporate goal of 5.0. The Safety Department reports that the majority of the vehicle accidents occur when the driver is backing.

A lost time accident in September brought an end to the more than 2 million accident-free hours worked by company employees.

States urged to support coal use

Natural Coal Association President Carl E. Bagge recently urged state governments to support pending proposals to amend federal statutes that would bring about greater utilization of domestic coal resources.

In an address before the annual Southern Governor's Association meeting, Bagge said that although President Carter has called for production and use of 1.2 billion tons of coal annually by 1985, "the rules under which the game is currently being played will preclude this country from reaching that goal."

Just call him 'Friendly Bob'

His name is Robert Dawson but around the Baton Rouge Gas Department he's known as "Friendly Bob," a nickname he earned by virtue of his overwhelming personality and concern for others.

It's no big surprise then that Dawson, a 54-year-old corrosion technician, decided to become involved in this year's Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon for Muscular Dystrophy in a personal way. The annual telethon is the major fund-raising drive of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Dawson, his wife Gladys and their children conducted several fund-raising projects on their own which netted more than \$4,000 for the MDA. The family sold raffle tickets and held a Casino Night in which neighborhood "gamblers" played cards using chips instead of money. Unlike their Las Vegas counterparts however, the winners

couldn't cash the chips in for a more legal sort of tender.

Why did "Friendly Bob" decide to help MDA in such a big and personal way? "I feel as though I am doing something special for those crippled children and I really feel good knowing I have helped in some way," he says, smiling from ear to ear.

Challenges are nothing out of the ordinary for Dawson, a 31-year GSU veteran. Recently Dawson was called upon to "kill a service" in Baton Rouge while a house was being burned down by the LSU Experimental Station. Fighting 200 degree heat, Dawson and his assistants somehow managed to get the job done.

Robert "Friendly Bob" Dawson—one of the people who make GSU a company of which to be proud.

—Suzonne Taylor



Dawson takes time to visit with Muscular Dystrophy poster child Greg Lindrew.

Brenda Anderson, main office operator, uses new digital console.



Beaumont phone system updated

Renovation of the Beaumont interoffice telephone system was recently completed with the installation of a new digital switchboard in the main office building.

The new switchboard permits the six main office operators to work at small, individual consoles rather than at the wall-mounted switchboard,

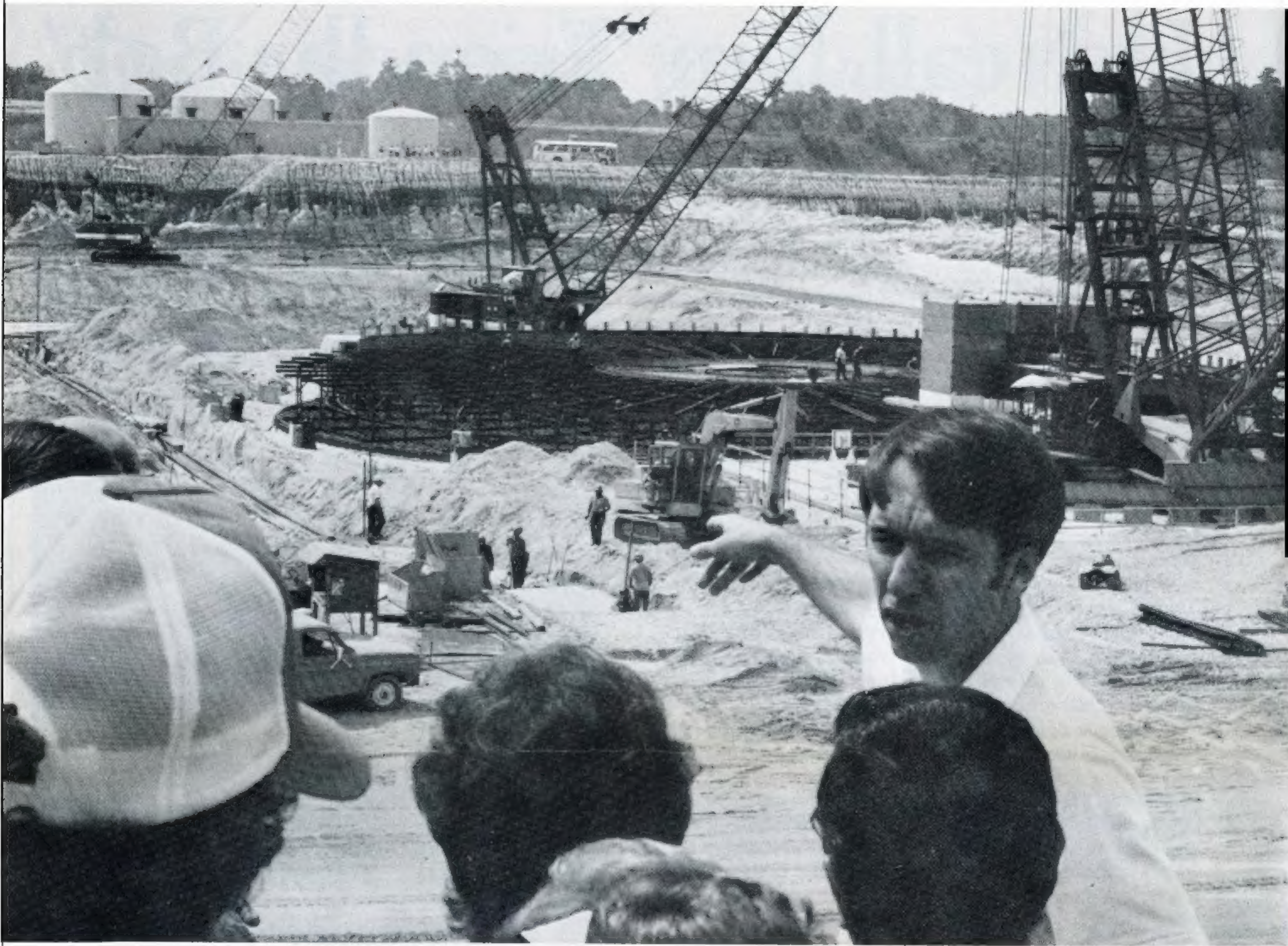
which has been in use since the company moved into its present headquarters in 1957.

Rapid growth in the number of main office employees in recent years forced the company to move into several additional downtown work locations and created a need for more telephone lines than the 800 the old switch provided.

"When we first started moving into other locations, the first step was to install a switchboard in the Petroleum Building and

then the Wilson Building," said Sam Gallier, supervisor of Office Services. And to relieve congestion at the main building switchboard, separate incoming numbers have been created to the Petroleum and Wilson Building switchboards.

According to Ed Welch, coordinator of telecommunications, the three Beaumont switchboards have a total capacity of 1600 extensions. Some 1200 of these are currently in use.



Employees tour River Bend

A tour of a nuclear power plant facility can be an exciting experience, even if the facility is not yet much more than a massive hole in the ground, as is the site of GSU's River Bend No. 1, which will be the company's first nuclear-powered electric generating plant when it goes into operation in 1984.

A number of Baton Rouge employees and their families were recently treated to a tour of River Bend and got a brief

education on the construction and operation of the unit, as well as the numerous safety requirements mandated by the federal government.

Some 75 persons took advantage of the company-sponsored tour on August 25, meeting at the downtown GSU office building on North Boulevard for the brief trek to the St. Francisville site aboard three chartered city buses.

Before visiting the site itself, the caravan stopped

at the St. Francisville Holiday Inn, where superintendent of site construction Joe Wimberley greeted the group and provided the participants with background information on the plant. Then it was on to the plant site!!!

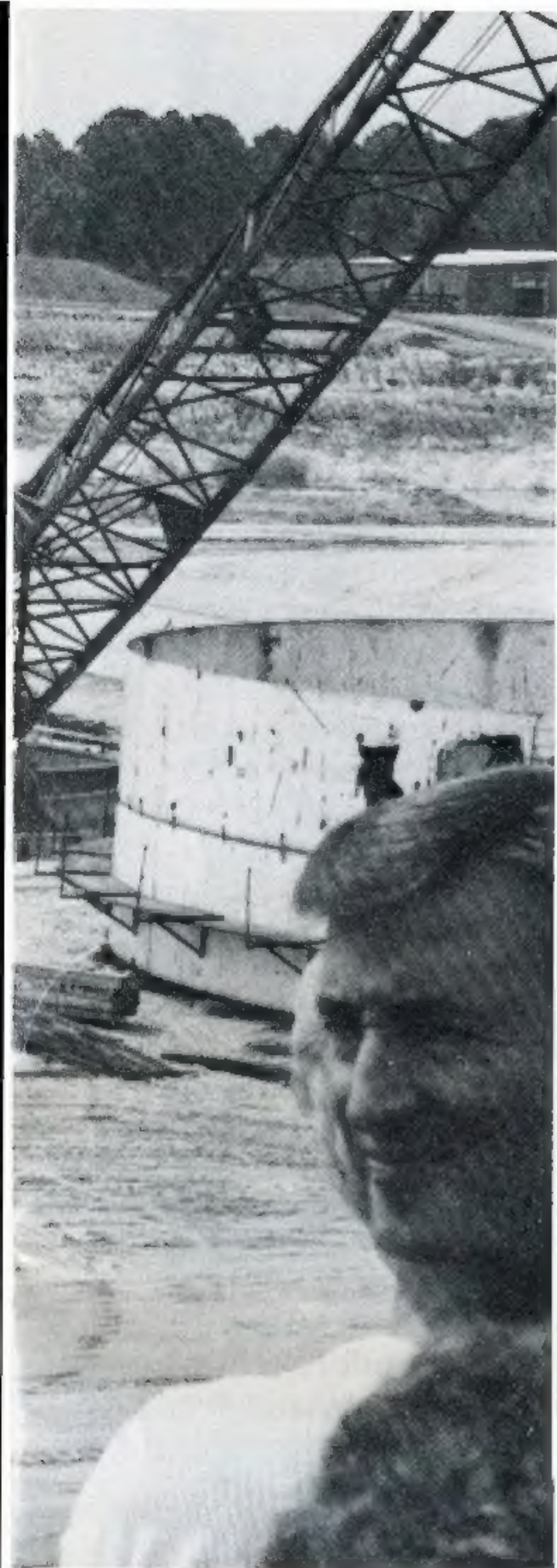
After a 45-minute tour of the facility, the group traveled to nearby Audubon Park for a picnic.

*Text and photos by
Dave Thornhill, La. Station*



Hungry geese like these were in evidence as tour participants enjoyed a brown bag picnic lunch in lovely Audubon Park.

River Bend construction supervisor Joey Normand (pointing) explains the construction activities in the foreground.



Some 75 persons took advantage of the company-sponsored tour on August 25 and got a mini-education in the workings and construction of a plant.



Baton Rouge Division vice president Calvin Hebert chats with several of the tour participants.



Do-it-yourself firewood tips

Now that the weather is beginning to chill, many of us are thinking about the cold winter nights and the warm fireplace. If you are like the average person, however, one of your first problems is getting a good load of logs for the fireplace.

With the price of firewood going out of sight, many chose to cut their own. All that's needed is a chain saw, pickup truck and a strong back.

Wood is available all around you. Construction sites are good places to go prospecting for firewood. Right-of-way clearing sites are another good source of timber. If you know of a saw mill nearby, check and see how they get rid of left-over wood. Many

homeowners would welcome someone coming over and dropping a diseased tree free — just for the right to haul off the wood. After a major storm, there are trees down everywhere and someone has to cut them up and haul them away. Why not you? *A word of caution: Always obtain permission before entering private property.*

Now that we've talked about how to find suitable firewood, let's take a look at the heating values of each type of wood. As shown by the chart below, hickory and oak are the best heat producers in our area. Also, both leave long-burning coals as the wood is consumed.

Many people go to the trouble of buying or cutting their wood only to bring it home and let it decay. Green wood should be stacked criss-crossed and kept off the ground. You can get fancy and build a wood rack with a weatherproof roof, or you can merely lay a couple of logs on the ground and stack your wood under a plastic cover. Regardless of how you do it, keep two things in mind. Wood must be kept off the ground so that air can circulate around the pile and help dry the wood. Firewood must be kept dry, covered to prevent moisture from getting into the wood fibers.

Green wood contains up to 65 percent of its weight in water. Properly stored for six to nine months, that moisture content will drop to around 20 percent. Unseasoned wood is not only hard to start burning, it will smoke much more.

If you can, split your logs. Split logs dry and season quicker and are easier to stack. If you are buying a cord of wood, demand split logs. A cord of unsplit logs will produce about 80 to 90 cubic feet of wood. Split cords, because you can pack them tighter, produce 110 to 120 cubic feet of wood. Remember, a cord is a stack measuring eight feet in length, four feet high and four feet wide. Anything less than that is a "short cord."

Lastly, if you really want to benefit from a fireplace, make sure it is energy efficient. Only 5 percent of the heat from a normal fireplace goes into the room — the rest goes up in smoke. If it isn't you can buy several different devices that will help you capture most of the heat that goes up the chimney in normal fireplaces.

--Ray Funderburk

SPECIES	STARTING EASE	SPARK OUTPUT	FRAGRANCE	COAL GENERATION	HEAT VALUE (HICKORY=100)
ASH	FAIR	FEW	SLIGHT	GOOD	81-82
BEECH	POOR	FEW	SLIGHT	GOOD	89-91
CHERRY	POOR	FEW	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT	70-71
ELM	FAIR	VERY FEW	FAIR	GOOD	71-80
HICKORY	FAIR	MODERATE	SLIGHT	EXCELLENT	100
MAPLE (SUGAR)	POOR	FEW	GOOD	EXCELLENT	67-73
OAK (RED)	POOR	FEW	FAIR	EXCELLENT	86-99
PINE (WHITE)	EXCELLENT	MODERATE	GOOD	POOR	50

'Cause kids are people, too

In this time of bountiful bumper stickers and buttons, it's not always easy to remember all the slogans seen and read. One such button proclaims, "Kids are people too."

In keeping with that sentiment, GSU's Public Affairs Department recently published the Second Annual Report for Young People. It features Thomas Alva Edison, whose invention of the first successful incandescent electric bulb in 1879 is being heralded this year with the International Centennial of Light celebration.

Work on the Young

People's Report began in the spring of this year, when GSU Communications Representative Rick Harvin started researching the remarkable career of Edison. Meanwhile, freelance artist Jack Shofner of Beaumont began working on some preliminary sketches for the book.

Since Edison took out more than 1,000 patents on such diverse creations as the phonograph and the magnetic ore separator, there was plenty of material to work with and then condense into the report.

Of course, the book also contains information on GSU, including the company's officers, directors' and other pertinent facts and figures. The link between the electric utility business and Edison was fairly easy to establish, as the inventor was the first to design large-scale distribution systems for electricity, so that many people could enjoy the benefits of electricity.

The Report was first mailed out to employees, and now is being distributed to GSU service area schools and other organizations. If it's as

well received as the First Annual Report for Young People, it will certainly be a winning publication.

"Back in late 1977, we received a small magazine in the mail, a young people's report done by another firm," noted Harvin. "We passed it around the Public Affairs Department and decided we could do something similar," he added.

So the work began on this new project. First, the theme of "Bulbs for Growth" was devised. Then, with the cooperation

(continued on page 11)



H. R. Leicht, Jr.
Electric T&D Dept.
Beaumont
40 Years



John A. Stewart
Division Production
Baton Rouge — WG
40 Years



E. A. Baumgartner
Sys. Eng. Design
Beaumont
30 Years



Leroy J. Bodemann
Electric T&D Dept.
Conroe
30 Years



James W. L. Broussard
Electric T&D Dept.
Jennings
30 Years



George Emery
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
30 Years



James E. Gammage
Division Production
Beaumont
30 Years



Richard A. Landry, Jr.
Divn. Marketing Dept.
Conroe
30 Years



Vick J. Pizzuto
Gas Department
Baton Rouge
30 Years



Guy R. Reid, Jr.
Division Production
Baton Rouge — WG
30 Years



Ernest L. Singletary
Divn. Marketing Dept.
Navasota
30 Years



Aubrey D. Sprawls
Executive Dept.
Beaumont
30 Years



W. E. Thomason
Electric T&D Dept.
Beaumont
30 Years



Edward D. Vallet, Jr.
Division Production
Baton Rouge
30 Years



Vernon C. Young
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
30 Years



Raymond J. Adrio
Systems Operations
Beaumont
20 Years



Tite Baudoin
Electric T&D Dept.
Lafayette
20 Years



Isaac J. Brown
Electric T&D Dept.
Lake Charles
20 Years



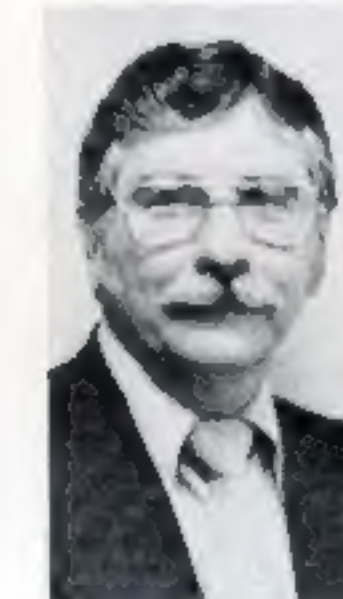
Thomas W. Hoffpauir
Electric T&D Dept.
Lake Charles
20 Years



Richard T. Green
Acctg. Services Dept.
Beaumont
20 Years



Odea V. McNeil
Division Production
Port Arthur
20 Years



Gene W. Russell
Personnel Dept.
Beaumont
20 Years



Aubrey M. Smith
System Engineering
Beaumont
20 Years



Harry J. Stelly
Electric T&D Dept.
Lake Charles
20 Years



Walter F. Wright
Division Operations
Port Allen
20 Years



Otis T. Boles
Electric T&D Dept.
New Caney
10 Years



Lynn F. Bouillion
Division Production
Port Arthur
10 Years



Robert L. Breaux
Division Production
Port Arthur
10 Years



Melvin J. Clark
Electric T&D Dept.
Lafayette
10 Years



Jon. H. Curless
Acctg. Services Dept.
Beaumont
10 Years



Roger D. Gatlin
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
10 Years



Robert L. Glach
Electric T&D Dept.
Beaumont
10 Years



Rose L. Grisham
Personnel Dept.
Beaumont
10 Years



Robert R. Herbert
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
10 Years



Larry C. Ivy
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
10 Years



Sybil D. King
Div. Accounting Dept.
Denham Springs
10 Years



James C. Milton, Jr.
Systems Operation
Beaumont
10 Years



Linda A. Nelson
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
10 Years



Raymond Pascual, Jr.
Electric T&D Dept.
Beaumont
10 Years



Frank D. Rozas
Electric T&D Dept.
Lake Charles
10 Years



Michael W. Vincent
Division Production
Baton Rouge — WG
10 Years



Janice S. Wynn
Div. Marketing Dept.
Baton Rouge
10 Years



Delbert R. Zimmerly
Electric T&D Dept.
Baton Rouge
10 Years

Contact workshop



Jill Street, Contact leader at North Boulevard, explains the corporate structure.

Employee Contact Program leaders recently completed a rigorous four-day workshop in Beaumont in preparation for Contact VII, Internal Organization and Communications at GSU.

Workshop speakers included Fred Repper, vice president-Public Affairs; Bill Douglas, manager-Personnel Services; Les Moor, vice president-Human Resources and Ed Hodges, president of Varibus, the company's wholly owned subsidiary.

The grapevine has been a needed part of the communications process at GSU in the past, Repper told the group, but "if we do our job right, the grapevine won't be as necessary a part of communications as in the past."

—Les Jones

Battle of the sexes

Orange GSU women staged their own "battle of the sexes" on Tuesday, August 28, in a softball game played against the Orange men's softball team.

The girls originally organized to play the Orange men, the losers in the GSU men's softball tournament, but "had so much fun just getting together with the girls practicing," says team member Sharon Young, they want to keep their team.

The men, determined to regain some respect, won the



In the dugout -- Donna Derise, Linda Crawford, Delores Sandifer and Sue Swiderski

game 36-7. The women had to recruit a few guys to play on their team for this game — Deke Richardson, pitcher, and George Crawford, left field. Donna Derise, Sharon Young, Nancy Thibodaux, Dee Sandifer, Lisa Sanford, Sue Swiderski, Kathy Bourgeois, and Linda Crawford filled the other positions.

According to Kathy Bourgeois, the team is not discouraged by defeat in such a "tight game" and plans to continue the "battle of the sexes". "Our next endeavor," she says, "is to challenge them to a bowling tournament."

Donna Derise, who started the team, says the girls will have a better chance in bowling because in softball "the men threw the ball too fast, kicked dirt on us, stepped on our feet and even 14 men (help from the spectators) in the field were not enough."

—Doris Wallace

Retirements

Lyndred A. Montgomery, mechanic — Lake Charles T&D Garage, on August 1.

Luther M. Risher, Jr., supervisor-Stores and Salvage — Beaumont Material Services, on October 1.

Willow Glen 5,000



The winners in the 30 to 40 age bracket

Doug Krcma recorded the fastest time of the day as 15 runners from Willow Glen Station competed in the Willow Glen 5,000 meter run September 8 in St. Gabriel, La.

Krcma, running in the 30-40 age group, completed the 3.1 mile course in 21 minutes and 28 seconds. James Pitts took the 30 and under category in 23:13 and Eddie Jones won the 40 and over group in 24:19.

Trophies were awarded to the top three finishers in each group and honorable mention ribbons were given to all runners completing the race. Jones and Darrel Latiolais were the organizers of the race. The results follow.

30 and under

1. James Pitts
2. Randy Darr
3. Steve Fransen

30 to 40

1. Doug Krcma
2. Bobby Mason
3. Jim Veatch

40 and over

1. Eddie Jones
2. Don Burns
3. Jim Fugitt

—Lydia Mitchell

Conroe steps up

"No more trying to inspect attics using a chair," smiles Lori McEntire, consumer service representative in Conroe.

"We could check the rest of the house, but when it came to attics we ran into problems," relates McEntire, who conducts National Energy Watch audits of area homes. "We would either use a chair or stool, which," she added, "the Safety Department frowned on, or we would have



McEntire assembles her portable ladder

to come back to the Service Center and get the station wagon with the ladder and go back out."

The answer, she explains, was a specially built 25-pound ladder that comes in three easy-to-assemble three-foot sections.

The original concept for the ladder came from Texas Power & Light who reported a similar problem at the 1978 meeting of the Southwest Electric Safety Exchange in Shreveport. TP&L solved the problem by having Safeway Steel Products Company custom build a ladder for their Marketing Department to use in inspecting new homes.

Their problems were the same as the ones we were experiencing says McEntire. When the National Energy Watch program came along, our customer services people were required to inspect homes for certification under the program. The compact cars assigned consumer services personnel have limited trunk space, which made transporting a full size ladder impossible.

—Nina Wiley

Energy contest

Paul Gerstenberg, son of Beaumont division engineer Ken Gerstenberg, was the overall grand prize winner in the first annual "Conserve Energy Contest", co-sponsored by the company's Beaumont and Port Arthur divisions during October in observance of International Energy Conservation Month.

Sue Kendall, senior consumer



Gene Koci, Beaumont division Consumer Services, congratulates Paul.

service advisor for the Beaumont division coordinated the contest with assistance from Port Arthur consumer service advisor Kathleen Reed.

As grand prize winner, Gerstenberg was awarded a \$150 savings bond. The first and second place winners in each division received \$100 and \$75 savings bonds, respectively. Savings bonds were also awarded for the third, fourth and fifth place entries in each division.

The top winners' projects went on display at the GSU booth at the South Texas State Fair.

Safety barbeque



The Lafayette District safety contest winners enjoyed a barbeque dinner August 24. The winners also received 600 bonus safety points each. Enjoying the good food are from left to right Dudley Duplechien, Horace (ToTo) LaCombe and Melvin Clark.

Daigle's big catch



James Daigle, Lafayette T&D, (center, crouching) poses here with his fishing buddies and their big catch of red fish. "No phone calls, please," says Daigle, adding that these were caught in a private fishing hole.

Energy

(from page two)

burn oil will go to the utilities with no company permitted to burn oil in excess of its tickets.

The tickets could be traded among utilities according to their ability to substitute other fuels for oil. Without Washington's help in the regulatory arena, not many utilities are going to be in a position to do much trading.

One of the major portions of the Carter program is the Energy Security Corporation, which would direct the investment of \$88 billion in an effort to replace 2.5 million barrels of oil with substitute fuels by 1990.

The corporation would be funded from the President's proposed "windfall" profits tax and would work to develop coal liquids, coal gases, peat, biomass, shale oil and unconventional natural gas — the much-ballyhooed synthetic fuels.

The proposed corporation, which would be given \$88 billion over the next decade, epitomizes what is wrong with Washington's view of the nation's energy problems. Government cannot cure our energy ills because government is one of the ills. Federal controls and regulations have been a major contributor to the energy shortage.

Instead of withdrawing from the energy battlefield and letting a free market economy develop fuel for the future, just as it has done in the past, the White House wants the federal government to become more involved than ever. Giving government the responsibility for synthetic fuels is hardly the way to spur their development.

Some of the President's ideas, while in need of improvement, are headed in the right direction. Others are not. There is widespread agreement that

Congress will make substantive changes in the Carter package. Whether the changes will be for better or worse remains to be seen.

Edison

(from page one)

Rivals said he was courting failure. But Edison reminded his critics to consider what he was attempting. "We have an almost infinitesimal filament, heated to a degree difficult to comprehend, in a vacuum under the conditions of which we are wholly ignorant. You cannot use your eyes to help you, and you really know nothing of what is going on in that tiny bulb."

He finally did know on October 21, 1879. Using a filament of carbonized cotton thread in an evacuated glass bulb, he created the first *durable* incandescent lamp. It burned for 40 hours until Edison himself shattered the bulb as he experimented with increased voltage.

Barely two months later, on December 31, Edison gave the first public demonstration of his invention and its possibilities. He illuminated a street in Menlo Park, using similar lamps mounted on wooden poles. That event will be recreated New Year's Eve 1979 as a fitting climax to the Centennial of Light, the year-long international celebration of Edison's genius.

From Bulb to System

By February 1881, Edison was ready to bring his invention into homes, factories and offices. He had a bold, original plan to install electric lighting, powered from a central generating station, in a half-mile-square area of lower Manhattan in New York City. Previous installations had been limited to single buildings with generators inside. The site was 50 by 100 feet on "the

worst dilapidated street in the financial district — Pearl Street."

Although city fathers initially were less than enthused over the project, work on laying underground power lines began in the fall of 1881. Edison placed insulated copper wires into metal tubes. Filled with hot asphalt and allowed to harden, the tubes were crude prototypes of modern electrical conduits. Other Edison crews installed wiring and fixtures in customer buildings.

In the meantime, Edison's small factory in Menlo Park was producing incandescent light bulbs in quantity. In a shipyard near New York's East River, his associates were building the dynamos he had designed. Only the boilers and the steam engines came from outside companies. On July 6, 1882, Edison opened valves sending steam into the Pearl Street generators for a trial run.

On September 4, three years after his invention of the light bulb, Edison threw the switch and energized the world's first electric light and power system. Some 85 customers received power to light a total of 400 lamps.

Even Edison, who had often visionary and colorful remarks for the press, understated his achievement somewhat. This time he said simply, "I have accomplished all that I promised."

Kids

(from page eight)

of many departments within GSU, the book began to come together. Shofner was called on to do the art for this version.

The book featured a very basic explanation of GSU's business, including how electricity is produced, how it's used in the

home and how a utility company such as GSU uses its money. The two most difficult things about putting this first book together were: (1) Nothing like it had ever been done at GSU, so new territory was being explored, and (2) All the language had to be "translated" for elementary school-aged children.

After the first report was printed, it was sent to GSU employees, who gave it a good initial response. Then, as the book began going out to schools, church groups, scout troops, etc., reply cards — included with the report — began coming back to the Public Affairs Department. The cards contained requests for more copies of the report.

"The first printing of 5,000 went very quickly, and we ran another 5,000 soon afterwards," Harvin commented. Eventually, more than 2,000 additional books were printed, as word about the publication spread. The report was even requested by several utility firms from places as far away as Ohio, Kansas, Pennsylvania and California.

Now the Second Annual Report for Young People is following in the very successful footsteps of its predecessor. If the response is anywhere near as enthusiastic this time, the report will be doing its main job.

That job is educating a certain group about Thomas Edison and the electric utility business. The group — kids — is important to all of us. Because, after all, kids are people too!

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“Even though Jennifer’s still our patient, she’s like any other 8-year-old. She’s busy growing up. And like more and more children with leukemia, the chances are good that someday she’ll be growing old.”

James F. Holland, M.D.
Chairman, Cancer and Leukemia Group B



Once Jennifer’s future would have been far from bright. Then childhood leukemia meant almost certain death. It took many long years, but now things are changing. Not only for children with leukemia, but through what we’ve learned working to save them, for patients with many other types of cancer as well.

Leukemia research helped us find treatments to keep cancers from spreading. Treatments that kill traces of disease so they won’t threaten a patient’s life. For thousands of people who’ll beat cancer this year, these new approaches will make the difference. In a very real way, they’ll have children like Jennifer to thank for their lives.

Cancer is hundreds of different diseases. There won’t be a single answer. But there is continuing progress. For patients like Jennifer, we’re making your contributions count.

American Cancer Society

CANCER CAN BE BEAT

Almost 2 million people are living proof your contributions count.

PLAIN TALKS

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